

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 FDRE-00 AGR-10 IO-13 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7287

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 8784

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EGEN, EAID, PK

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TOURS FLOOD STRIKEN PUNJAB

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI AND PESHAWAR
DATED AUG 20, 1976. REPEATING FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

UNCLAS LAHORE 1103

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EGEN, EAID, PK

SUBJ: PRIMIN BHUTTO TOURS FLOOD STRIKEN PUNJAB

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TOURED FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS OF
PUNJAB AUGUST 11-13. IN SERIES OF SPEECHES HE ANNOUNCED
VARIOUS FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES AND REPORTEDLY SAID VOLUNTARY
AID FROM ANY FRIENDLY COUNTRY WOULD BE APPRECIATED. HE THANKED
U.S. FOR FLOOD RELIEF CONTRIBUTION OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS
OF WHEAT ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS RECENT
VISIT TO LAHORE. HE WARNED THAT OPPOSITION WOULD OPPOSE GOVER-
NMENT EFFORTS TO BRING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE BACK TO
NORMAL AND URGED PPP WORKERS TO MAKE SINCERE EFFORT TO HELP
FLOOD VICTIMS. HE SAID THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES WERE UNNERVED
BY PAKISTAN'S PROGRESS, DICTATING THAT IT QUOTE SHOULD MAKE
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THIS AND NOT THAT UNQUOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AUGUST 10,

PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO DEPARTED THE NEXT DAY TO TOUR FLOOD STRIKEN AREAS IN SARGODHA, JHELMUM AND MIANWALI DISTRICTS. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS PRIME MINISTER ASSURED ALL POSSIBLE HELP TO FLOOD HIT PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE AND ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIME MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. HE MADE NO APPEAL FOR EXTERNAL HELP, BUT SAID IF ANY COUNTRY VOLUNTARILY OFFERED ASSISTANCE, IT WOULD BE ACCEPTED WITH GRATITUDE.

2. PRESS HIGHLIGHTED PRIMIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FLOOD VICTIMS WITH LAND HOLDINGS UPTO TWELVE AND A HALF ACRES WOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM PAYMENT OF TACCAVI LOANS.

3. ON AUGUST 12, PRIMIN BHUTTO VISITED SHEIKHUPURA AND SIALKOT DISTRICTS. IN SPEECH AT BUCHEKE, PRIMIN REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED TWO-YEAR SUSPENSION OF TACCAVI LOAN PAYMENT FOR CULTIVATORS OWNING MORE THAN TWELVE AND A HALF ACRES OF LAND. HE REPEATED HIS STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT APPEAL FOR RELIEF FROM ABROAD, BUT WOULD WELCOME VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE. PRIMIN THANKED U.S. FOR SUPPLY OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF WHEAT ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO LAHORE.

4. WHILE ASSURING FLOOD VICTIMS THAT MONEY WOULD BE PROVIDED TO RECONSTRUCT FLOOD DAMAGED BUILDINGS AND RESTORE NORMAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT QUOTE VESTED INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE BELONGING TO THE OPPOSITION, WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ONEROUS WORK OF REHABILITATION UNQUOTE. HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED OPPOSITION WOULD IMPUTE MOTIVES TO GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSE ANY SCHEME AT BRINGING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE BACK TO NORMAL.

5. IN AN APPEAL TO PPP RANK AND FILE, PRIMIN SAID HE WOULD REWARD PARTY WORKERS WHO SINCERELY HELPED FLOOD VICTIMS. HE URGED THEM TO LEAVE ASIDE POLITICS, RISE ABOVE FACTIONALISM AND FORGET ABOUT FUTURE ELECTIONS.
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QUOTE WHOSOEVER HELPS THEM UNQUOTE HE SAID QUOTE WILL OCCUPY A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART AND MY PARTY UNQUOTE.

6. PRIMIN VISITED FLOOD AFFECTED LOCALITIES IN LAHORE SAME DAY AND ADDRESSED PUBLIC. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE HOUSE BUILDING FINANCE CORPORATION WOULD ADVANCE LOANS FOR HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION WITH A TWO-YEAR GRACE PERIOD AT NO INTEREST FOR REPAYMENT.

PRIMIN SAID IT WAS POLICY OF PPP GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SLUM RESIDENTS WITH PROPERLY DESIGNED BRICK HOUSES. HE ASSERTED IT WAS FALSE PROPAGANDA THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE OVER PRIVATE PROPERTY OF A PARTICULAR CLASS TO RESETTLE SLUM DWELLERS. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANYONE'S PROPERTY, NOR WAS IT GOING TO FREEZE PRIVATE GOLD DEPOSITS.

7. IN SAME SPEECH PRIME MINISTER REPORTDLY SAID THAT OTHERS HAD GOT UNNERVED OVER PAKISTAN'S PROGRESS. HE SAID PEOPLE MUST BE AWARE THROUGH NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WERE TRYING TO DICTATE TO PAKISTAN, TELLING HER TO QUOTE MAKE THIS AND NOT THAT UNQUOTE.

8. FOLLOWING DAY, AUGUST 13, PRIMIN TOURED FLOOD HIT AREAS IN MULTAN DIVISION AND ADDRESSED PUBLIC AT VARIOUS PLACES. HE REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK WOULD GRANT LOANS TO FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE FOR PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS, BULLOCKS AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS ON SOFT TERMS (TWO-YEAR GRACE PERIOD FOR REPAYMENT AT NO INTEREST).

9. FOLLOWING TWO-DAY TOUR OF FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS IN SIND, PRIMIN MADE SURPRISE VISIT TO MAYO HOSPITAL IN LAHORE AUGUST 15, WHERE HE INSPECTED WARDS AND RAIN DAMAGED STAFF QUARTERS. THE NEXT DAY HE LEFT FOR N.W.F.P. SIGNED GIBNEY UNQUOTE.
BYROADE

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